

CHESHUNT

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
including the Report of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year
1942

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality
Maternal Death Rates, and Case-rates for certain
Infectious Diseases in the year 1942

| (England and Wales, London, 126 Towns (Provisional Figures based on Weekly | | | and 148 Smaller Towns) and Quarterly Returns) | | |
|---|-------------------|--|--|--------------------|----------|
| | England and Wales | 126 County Boro's & Gt. Towns including London | 148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census | London adm. County | Cheshunt |
| <u>Rates per 1,000 population</u> | | | | | |
| Live Births | 15.8 | 17.3 | 18.4 | 14.0 | 18.0 |
| Still Births | 0.54 | 0.66 | 0.62 | 0.48 | 0.26 |
| Deaths | | | | | |
| All Causes | 11.6 | 13.3 | 12.1 | 13.9 | 10.42 |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Scarlet Fever | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Whooping Cough | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.05 |
| Diphtheria | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.02 | - |
| Influenza | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.10 | 0.07 | - |
| Smallpox | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | - |
| <u>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</u> | | | | | |
| Deaths under one year of age. | 49 | 59 | 46 | 60 | 35.82 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age | 5.2 | 7.5 | 4.8 | 8.6 | 2.98 |
| <u>Notifications Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</u> | | | | | |
| Typhoid Fever | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | - |
| Paratyphoid Fever | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | - |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | 0.14 | 0.17 | 0.12 | 0.15 | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 2.19 | 2.49 | 2.34 | 1.86 | 2.57 |
| Whooping Cough | 1.73 | 1.97 | 1.58 | 2.72 | 6.23 |
| Diphtheria | 1.05 | 1.35 | 0.91 | 0.76 | 0.16 |
| Erysipelas | 0.30 | 0.36 | 0.26 | 0.43 | 0.32 |
| Smallpox | 0.00 | 0.00 | - | 0.00 | - |
| Measles | 7.46 | 9.27 | 7.39 | 8.62 | 2.04 |
| Pneumonia | 1.07 | 1.30 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 2.09 |
| <u>Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)</u> | | | | | |
| <u>Maternal Mortality (excluding Abortion)</u> | | | | | |
| Puerperal Infection (No.147) | 0.42 | | | | - |
| Others | 1.59 | Not available | | | - |
| Total | 2.01 | | | | - |
| <u>Notifications</u> | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever) | | | | 3.10 | |
| " Pyrexia) | 12.61 | 15.94 | 10.80 | 17.69 | 0.26 |

To The Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Cheshunt

Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health together with the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, for 1942.

The Ministry of Health direct that this shall again be an interim Report but that arrangements shall be made for the careful preservation of all records, including statistics supplied by the Registrar General.

Figures relating to population are excluded for security reasons.

I wish to record my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector for his co-operation throughout the year and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their sympathetic help.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

BRIAN RUSSELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the
Cheshunt Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

BRIAN RUSSELL, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Superintendent of the Ambulance and Refuse Collection Services, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts:

C. WILSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (1.3.4.)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

J.B. JACKSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., (2.3.)
(on Military Service)

R.C. GIRLING, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (2.3.)

1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute,
2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
3. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
4. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute.

STATISTICS

Area

The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

| | <u>1940</u> | <u>1941</u> | <u>1942</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of inhabited houses on the rate books. | 5,475 | 5,458 | 5,458 |
| Rateable value. | £123,189. | | |
| Sum represented by a penny rate. | £496. | | |

Vital Statistics

| | <u>1941</u> | <u>1942</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Birth rate per 1,000 of the population | 16.43 | 18.00 |
| Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) | 44.44 | 10.47 |
| Death rate per 1,000 of the population | 12.56 | 10.42 |
| Deaths from Puerperal causes:- | | |
| Deaths from Puerperal & Post-abortive Sepsis | nil | nil |
| Deaths from other Maternal causes | 1 | nil |
| Death rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) | 3.17 | nil |
| Death rates of infants under 1 year of age:- | | |
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 36.54 | 35.82 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 39.14 | 36.92 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | nil | nil |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 43 | 32 |
| Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages) | 46 | 41 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | 1 | nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | 3 | 1 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) | 2 | 1 |
| Deaths from Suicide | nil | 1 |
| Deaths from Other Violent Causes | 10 | 2 |
| Deaths from Road Traffic Accidents | 4 | 1 |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Throat swabs are sent to Enfield or the E.M.S. Laboratory, Haileybury, for examination. Other bacteriological specimens are sent to Haileybury.

Ambulance Facilities

The same arrangements exist as during last year.

Nursing in the Home

Details of work done by the District Nurses are given in the following Table:-

| | <u>Cases</u> | <u>Visits</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Midwifery (without Doctor) | 68 | 1,483 |
| Maternity (with Doctor) | 82 | 1,884 |
| Ante-natal | | 724 |
| General nursing | | 3,439 |
| Casual | | 443 |
| Infant health | | 3,508 |
| Tuberculosis | | 110 |
| Mental defects | | 23 |
| Bored out children | | 62 |
| Parents | | 268 |
| Attendance at Clinics | | 286 |
| Attendance at Schools (heads, etc.) | | 225 |

Treatment Centres and Clinics

The following Clinics are held at the Infant Welfare Centre, Waltham Cross:-

Child Welfare Clinic - Wednesday afternoon
 Ante-natal Clinic - Wednesday morning
 Dental Clinics - Tuesday and Friday
 Ophthalmic Clinic - Monday afternoon (every month)
 Tuberculosis Dispensary - Thursday morning

A B.R.C.S. Orthopaedic and Message Clinic was started on the 22nd September 1942, and is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

The following statement, which was kindly supplied by Dr. Ormstein, gives an indication of the extensive work carried on at the Centre:-

| | | |
|--|---|-------|
| Number of Child Welfare Clinics | : | 52 |
| Number of children on the books | | 390 |
| Number of attendances | | 1,945 |
| Number of children for dental treatment | | 27 |
| Number of expectant mothers for dental treatment | | 20 |
| Number of nursing mothers for dental treatment | | 9 |
| Number of deaths among children | | 2 |
| Number referred for orthopaedic treatment | | 5 |
| Number immunised against diphtheria | | 351 |

I wish to record my thanks to Dr. Ormstein for her great help in immunisation of children under 5.

Ante-natal Clinic

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Clinics | 52 |
| Number of expectant mothers | 205 |
| Number of attendances | 996 |
| Number of post-natal attendances | 16 |
| Number of dental treatments | 20 |
| Number of deaths | nil |

Hospitals

No change.

Mortuary

During the year five bodies were received in the Mortuary and two post-mortem examinations were made.

Scabies

Cleansing and treatment facilities for Scabies are available at the Cleansing Station, Waltham Cross. The number of cases treated during the year was ninetyeight.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water No change.

Following complaints, a sample of water was submitted for bacteriological examination from a deep well from which the water supply for two dwellinghouses and a nursery was obtained. The sample was reported upon as unsuitable for drinking and domestic purposes. Further samples showed that the water from the pumping main was satisfactory and that pollution occurred during storage. Cleansing of the storage tank, the provision of a suitable cover and the practice of pumping to waste for a few minutes overcame the difficulties.

Samples of water from the well supplying two out-lying cottages were submitted for bacteriological examination and proved to be satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage No change.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 2,084 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. One hundred and thirty complaints relating to a variety of matters were received and investigated.

Summary

| | |
|---|-------|
| Number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts). | 108 |
| Number of dwelling houses inspected for other than Housing defects | 174 |
| Number of premises other than houses inspected | 466 |
| Premises re-inspected (including housing) | 304 |
| Visits to works in progress (including housing) | 104 |
| Miscellaneous visits | 928 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 2,084 |

Included in the above table are the following classified visits:-

| | |
|---|-----|
| Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale | 96 |
| Visits to bakehouses | 4 |
| Visits to fish fryers premises | 1 |
| Visits to schools | 47 |
| Visits to tents, vans and sheds | 84 |
| Drains tested | 22 |
| Inspections of stables and piggories | 23 |
| Inspections of Urinals and public conveniences | 6 |
| Visits under Petroleum Acts | 29 |
| Visits re collection and disposal of refuse and salvage | 365 |
| Visits re ambulance service | 15 |

Notices Served

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Informal Notices (written) | 74 |
|----------------------------|----|

| | |
|---|---|
| Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance. | 4 |
| Statutory Notices under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide dustbin | 5 |

Inspections of Factories for purposes of provisions as to health

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Factories with mechanical power | 8 |
| Factories without mechanical power | 1 |

There were no written notices served, prosecutions instituted or matters referred to H.M. Inspector.

Shops

Thirtyfive shops were inspected under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature and to sanitary conveniences. The premises were found to be generally satisfactory.

Schools

Following detailed inspections of all elementary schools, representations were made to the School Managers concerned regarding obsolete trough closets and unsatisfactory sanitary conditions generally at four schools. The trough closets and cesspool were abolished at Turnford School and washdown pedestal closets installed and connected to the public sewer. Works of improvement were carried out at Waltham Cross R.C. School during the year.

Swimming Bath

In July three samples were taken from the Cheshunt Swimming Bath, one from the intake from the River Lea before the water passes through the filter, one from the outlet from the filter and one from the bath itself. Three similar samples were also taken in August. The laboratory reports on both sets of samples showed that the filter was working efficiently and that the bath water was satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Three houses were disinfested by the use of fumigant (Thermatox).

Public Cleansing

Three 10 cubic yard freighters with trailers were used to maintain a fortnightly collection of house refuse. Disposal is entirely by controlled tipping.

The Council participated in two waste paper contests and the County Salvage Drive during the year. Those intensive efforts and the operation of the Salvage of Waste Materials (No.2) Order by which it became an offence to destroy waste paper, were reflected in the increased weight of salvage materials collected.

Details of salvage sales during the year, together with the figures for 1941 for purposes of comparison, were as follows:-

| | 1941 | | 1942 | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Weight T. C. | | Value (to 31st December) T. C. | | |
| Paper | 163 | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 827. 5.10 | 247 | 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Pig Food | 113 | 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 142.19. 1 | 165 | 19 |
| Scrap Iron | 25 | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 33. 8. 2 | 72 | 2 |
| Light Metal | | 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 13.13. 6 | | 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Rags | 2 | 19 | 43.16. 6 | 2 | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bottles & Jars | 14 | 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 55.17. 0 | 18 | 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bones | 2 | 10 | 8.16. 8 | 2 | 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Tins | 10 | 2 | 2.10.10 | 30 | 3 |
| Cullet | 1 | 11 | 2. 6. 6 | 8 | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Batteries | 2 | 16 | 2. 2. 0 | - | - |
| Rubber | - | - | - | 12 | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Razor Blades | - | - | - | | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Gunnery | - | - | - | 4 | 13 |
| Felt Hats | - | - | - | | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| | 338 | 1$\frac{3}{4}$ | £1,132.16. 1 | 564 | 18$\frac{1}{2}$ |
| | | | | | £2,016.16. 8 |

The costs of collection and disposal for the year ended March 1942 were:-

Collection - £129. per 1,000 of the population
Disposal - £43. " " " "

HOUSING

There was no statutory action taken during the year under the repair sections of the Housing Act and normal slum clearance work remains in abeyance.

Four houses, upon which demolition orders were made in 1939, were demolished during the year. Three of these houses had been vacant for some considerable time and they were in a dilapidated and dangerous condition.

Housing Statistics

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 108

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, 18

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 3

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By the owner 1
(b) By the local authority in default of owners nil

(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

| | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made | nil |
| (2) Number of houses demolished | 4 |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

There are seventeen cowkeepers on the register.

Twentytwo visits to cowsheds and thirtysix to dairies were made during the year. Two inspections were made of milk vehicles.

Twentythree samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, ten of which were reported upon as unsatisfactory. In addition, twelve samples were submitted for bacteriological examination by the County Council and five of these were reported upon as unsatisfactory. Inspections were made of the premises of the producers from which the unsatisfactory samples were obtained and advice given with a view to obtaining an improvement in the quality of the milk.

Empty bottles from two retailers were submitted for bacteriological examination after cleansing. In both cases the laboratory report showed that the bottles were not efficiently cleansed. Improvements in bottle-washing technique were obtained at both premises.

A sample of water from a shallow well at one farm was submitted for bacteriological examination and was found to be unsuitable for domestic and dairy purposes. Arrangements were made for sterilisation of the water by hypochlorite and proposals for the construction of a new cowshed and dairy with main water supply were under consideration at the end of the year.

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936-38.

Licences were granted during the year as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuberculin Tested - retailing licence | 2 |
| Tuberculin Tested - supplementary licence | 1 |
| Accredited - supplementary licence | 1 |
| Pasteurised - dealers retailing licence | 2 |
| Pasteurised - supplementary licence | 2 |

Meat and Other Foods

During the year 96 visits were made to shops and premises (other than slaughter-houses) where food is prepared or exposed for sale and the following foodstuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:-

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Bacon | 2 lbs |
| Pork Luncheon Meat | 272 lbs 6½ ozs |
| Tongue | 19 lbs |
| Meat Roll | 4 lbs |
| Stewed Steak | 11 tins |
| Corned Beef | 2 tins |
| Pork Sausage Meat | 7 tins |
| Galantine | 6 tins |
| Rabbit | 2 tins |

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Pilchards | 12 tins |
| Herrings | 2 tins |
| Salmon | 6 tins |
| Sardines | 1 tin |
| Lemon Soles | 40 lbs. |
| Kippored Mackrel | 42 lbs. |
| Pea Soup | 67 tins |
| Vegetable Soup | 2 tins |
| Vegetable Stew | 93 tins |
| Peas | 16 tins |
| Carrots | 4 tins |
| Tomatoes | 15 tins |
| Baked Beans | 115 tins |
| Pineapple | 22 tins |
| Peaches | 49 tins |
| Plums | 1 tin |
| Apricots | 1 tin |
| Apples | 1 tin |
| Pears | 1 tin |
| Oranges | 1 tin |
| Fruit Salad | 3 tins |
| Evaporated Milk | 3,025 tins |
| Condensed Milk | 6 tins |
| Fish Paste | 1 jar |
| Margarine | ½ lb. |
| Dates | 1½ lbs. |
| Sultanas | 26 lbs. |
| Cheese | 5 lbs. |
| Coffee | 357 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb tins |

3,828. The total number of tins included in the above is

These figures show a large increase in the amount of tinned goods condemned. This is probably accounted for by the turning over of emergency stocks and by the advent of points values which resulted in retailers submitting for certification small quantities of blown and leaking tins which normally would be thrown away without official inspection. All condemned foodstuffs which can be used for animal feeding are disposed of for that purpose. Where the quantities involved are sufficiently large, the salvage organisation of the Ministry of Food is consulted about disposal arrangements.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were no epidemics of infectious diseases during the year although Whooping Cough was prevalent during the first two months and there was one death from this disease.

Arrangements were made during the year for the admission to the Cheshunt Isolation Hospital of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough complicated by Pneumonia where the patient was living in unsatisfactory home conditions.

A case of human Anthrax occurred during February, suspected to have been contracted by handling bone meal. Laboratory examinations were made of samples of suspected bone meal but the results were negative. Exhaustive enquiries were made into other possible sources of infection but without definite result.

Three cases of Paratyphoid occurred in April and May among children between the ages of two and eight years. Exhaustive enquiries into these cases failed to reveal the source of infection, the only common circumstance noted being that all three children had been playing in local water courses which had probably been contaminated by carriers of the disease.

Three cases of Meningo-encephalitis occurred during August and September in children between the ages of six and nine years and all the cases were fatal. No connection between the individual cases was traced. Isolated cases of this disease tend to arise in the late summer from no apparent cause.

There was again a slight increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever compared with the previous year but there were no deaths from this disease.

The Council again co-operated in the Autumn Health Publicity Campaign organised by the Ministry of Health against the spread of diseases by droplet infection.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Immunisations were carried out of school children at Clinics held at Halsey Hall, Waltham Cross Clinic and at Schools and of children from one to five years at Waltham Cross Clinic.

Publicity to stimulate the immunisation campaign was undertaken locally, including the insertion of an advertisement in the local press, the exhibition of posters issued by the Central Council for Health Education, and the distribution of leaflets.

The number of immunisations carried out during the year, together with the figures for 1941, are given in the following table:-

| | <u>Under 5 years</u> | | <u>Over 5 years and under 15 years</u> | |
|---|----------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| | <u>1941</u> | <u>1942</u> | <u>1941</u> | <u>1942</u> |
| Number of children who received full course | 258 | 305 | 957 | 339 |
| Percentage of child population who have received full course. | 18.42 | 43.74 | 36.8 | 66.5 |

Arrangements exist for Medical Practitioners to carry out immunisation privately free of charge to the patient. The number treated under this scheme during the year was forty-nine.

The target to be aimed at is at least 70% for both age groups. It is hoped that parents of children in the 1-5 age group will respond better to further publicity by attention at the Clinic or by going to their own doctor.

Notifiable Diseases

The following table shows details of diseases notified during the year:-

| <u>Disease</u> | <u>Cases Notified</u> | <u>Cases admitted to hospital</u> | <u>Deaths</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Enteric Fever | 3 | 3 | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 48 | 45 | - |
| Diphtheria | 3 | 3 | - |
| Pneumonia | 39 | 8 | 15 |
| Measles | 38 | 1 | - |
| Whooping Cough | 116 | - | 1 |
| Erysipelas | 6 | 1 | - |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis | - | - | 1 |
| Poliomyelitis | - | - | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 5 | - | - |

Of the three cases of Diphtheria notified during the year, one had not been immunised and the other two, who had been immunised, were carriers showing no clinical evidence of the disease but having virulent bacteria in their throats. They were thus themselves protected but a potential danger to others.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases of tuberculosis reported during the year was 16. The death rate from tuberculosis is 0.42 per 1,000 population.

New Cases

| <u>Age Period</u> | <u>Respiratory</u> | | <u>Non-respiratory</u> | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
| 0 | - | - | - | - |
| 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | - | - | 1 | - |
| 15 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 25 | 3 | 4 | - | 1 |
| 35 | 1 | 2 | - | - |
| 45 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 55 | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and upwards | - | - | - | - |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>3</u> |

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Manor House,
Cheshunt, Herts;

September 1943